

Natural Community Conservation Planning Process

- # **Scope** - Identify initial geographic planning area and natural communities
- # **Planning Agreement** - Convene interested parties to develop a planning agreement which outlines:
 - ◆ Geographic planning area
 - ◆ Species and natural communities to be addressed
 - ◆ Processes for scientific and public input
 - ◆ Interim process for project review
- # **Committees** - Establish committees as necessary
 - ◆ Plan stakeholder committee
 - ◆ Biological technical committee (agency biologists, consultants)
 - ◆ Specific issue committees (funding, mitigation strategies, data management, outreach, etc.)
- # **Data Collection** - Collect biological and other necessary planning data
 - ◆ Species field surveys
 - ◆ Vegetation mapping and habitat modeling
 - ◆ Soils, hydrology, land ownership, etc.
- # **Conservation Principles** - Convene independent scientific guidance group to identify conservation principles for:
 - ◆ Landscape conservation and preserve design, such as:
 - \$ Larger preserves are better than smaller preserves
 - \$ Reserve areas should be close to each other
 - \$ Habitat should remain contiguous
 - \$ Preserves should be linked with corridors
 - \$ Preserves should contain a diversity of physical and environmental conditions
 - \$ Preserves should be protected from encroachment
 - ◆ Conservation of specific target species and habitats
 - ◆ Data gaps (may include research recommendations)
 - ◆ Adaptive management
- # **Identify Preserves** - Use conservation principles, data, and expert opinion to identify preserves
- # **Plan Development**
 - ◆ Develop draft plan with input from committees and interested public
 - \$ Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures
 - \$ Conservation obligations of partners
 - \$ Mechanisms for development approval
 - \$ Economic analysis and funding strategies
 - \$ Draft implementing agreement

#

Plan Review and Approval

- ◆ Conduct public review of draft plan and CEQA documents
- ◆ Develop final plan
- ◆ Obtain jurisdictional approval of final plan (local government)
- ◆ Issue necessary permits (DFG, USFWS)

#

Implementation

- ◆ Assemble the reserve system
- ◆ Biological monitoring
- ◆ Adaptive management program
- ◆ Compliance monitoring